

VOL. 1, NO. 5,

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# Inside ...of OJJ



**Dr. Mary L. Livers, Deputy Secretary**

## Mission:

The Office of Juvenile Justice protects the public by providing safe and effective individualized services to youth, who will become productive,

I received a great email message recently and wanted to pass it along. Maya Angelou, one of America's greatest contemporary poets, was interviewed about growing older by Oprah on her 70+ birthday. She said it was 'exciting.' Here is some of her wisdom:

I've learned that no matter what happens, or how bad it seems today, life does go on, and it will be better tomorrow.

I've learned that you can tell a lot about a person by the way he/she handles these three things: a rainy day, lost luggage, and tangled Christmas tree lights.

I've learned that regardless of your relationship with your parents, you'll miss them when they're gone from your life.

I've learned that making a 'living' is not the same thing as 'making a life.' I've learned that life sometimes gives you a second chance.

I've learned that whenever I decide something with an open heart, I usually make the right decision. I've learned that even when I have pains, I don't have to be one.

I've learned that every day you should reach out and touch someone. People love a warm hug, or just a friendly pat on the back. I've learned that I still have a lot to learn.

I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel."

The email asked us to send this on to phenomenal people to boost their self-esteem. I hope that's what happens when you read Maya Angelou's words.

**"Doc" Dr. Mary Livers**

## Soul Food

An inspirational column by OJJ staff



Swanson Chaplain

Ricky James

### STAY FOCUSED

There are many distractions around us every day and it is easy for us to get off track, or to lose our focus. With the changes in our agency, with the failing home market, auto market, the loss of hundreds of jobs, and a down economy, it is very difficult to stay tuned in to the purpose for which we are here, and whose we are.

It's hard to stay focused, when death invades our families and friends. It's hard to stay focused, when you don't know what tomorrow might bring. But we must remain focused no matter what comes our way. It is said "in this life you will suffer trials and tribulations, but be of good cheer, for I have overcome the world."

We too can overcome the trials and tribulations of this world by simply placing our trust and confidence in a Higher Being. Scripture says "trust in the lord, and lean not unto thine own understanding, but in all thy ways acknowledge him, and he will direct thy paths."

Yes, we must remain focused. When difficulties come, we must remember to look to the hills from whence comes our help, our help comes from the Creator.

With all of the changes and distractions going on we can lose the focus on what we are supposed to be doing, and just

give up on life. But sometimes all our life need is a little re-focusing.

I remember growing up poor on the farm/plantation, and we didn't have much money. But we had two black and white televisions sets. One sat on top of the other. One showed a picture, but had no sound. And the other had sound, but not a picture. And we had an outside antenna with two wires that led into the house to the television that had the picture, so that the picture would be clear. But every now and then a storm or strong wind would come and blow the antenna, and cause it to move, which caused the picture on the television to lose focus. Mother or Daddy would tell one of us children to go out and turn the antenna until the picture on the television was clear again. Scripture says "if my people which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and will heal their land."

Chaplain Ricky L. James

## The Daily Motivator

### Purposeful focus

Is there something that's distracting you and keeping you from staying focused? There will always be some distraction or another, but you never have to give in to those distractions.

The way to focus on anything is to make it important. If you need more focus, then make the object of your focus more personally meaningful.

Make a conscious connection between whatever you're doing and your deepest reason for doing it. Clearly know why, and the focus will be strong.

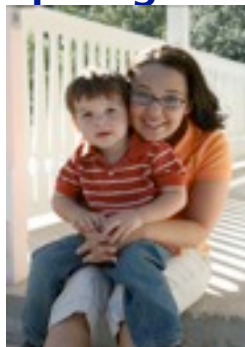
When you feel your focus begin to slip, reaffirm and reconnect to your purpose. Maintain the focus by maintaining the meaning that's behind it.

When your desire is strong enough, no event or circumstance will have the power to distract you. Give your efforts a reason why, and you give yourself a reason to persist.

Live with authentic purpose. And you'll act with powerful focus.

-- Ralph Marston

## Staff Spotlight Spotlight on...



### Courtney Pegues, Administrative Coordinator 4, Hammond Regional Office

Courtney Pegues is the Administrative Coordinator 4 for the Hammond OJJ Regional office. She has been with OJJ since 1998, starting in the Thibodaux office in a clerical position. She moved to the Jefferson office in 2001, as a Probation and Parole Officer, and later became the office coordinator. "I love the administrative support area," Courtney said, "but having been a PPO I know what they need and I really like being their office manager."

Courtney remained with the Jefferson Parish office until Hurricane Katrina sent her and her husband off to Birmingham, Alabama as evacuees. Her son was born there the day after the storm. In January 2006, Courtney accepted her current position in the Hammond office. "I am blessed to be here, she said, "like the other OJJ offices, this is like a family."

"Everyone who has come into contact with Courtney knows she is friendly, helpful, and willing to do anything for anyone," said Reg. Manager Julie Eudy, in spotlighting Courtney. "She has a great sense of humor and contributes to the morale of the office with her contagious laughter and cheerful attitude. Courtney is amazing and we are blessed to have her!"

"I love it here," Courtney said. "I have spent my entire state career with this agency. OJJ has been a good home and I try to be good for the agency. I have no desire to go any place else."

Courtney said she enjoys hearing the PPOs' stories about working with our kids, since she is not in a frontline position. "Our officers call them "my kids" and they don't forget about them when they go home," she said. "No day is the same for a PPO. I like taking care of them."

As office manager, Courtney supervises the clerical staff and assists her Regional Manager with numerous tasks. She handles purchasing and makes sure the staff has the supplies they need to get their jobs done. She also is the backup payroll person, computer liaison, performs HR functions, maintains the fleet and serves as backup supervisor for the transport officers. Courtney said she is never bored!

Courtney said she is proud of the work of the JETS committee and is excited about the upcoming implementation of OJJ's new electronic data system. The system was tested in the Hammond office, and she is looking forward to seeing it launched after all the hard work that has gone into developing it.

A native of the Marrero area, Courtney moved to Thibodaux at age 12, and is a graduate of Thibodaux High School. She studied elementary education and accounting at Nicholls State University and has lived in Washington, DC.

Courtney and her husband Geoff have a 3 ½ year old son, Riley, whom she describes as her pride and joy. "He's so smart, just incredible," she said. Courtney did not want to evacuate for Hurricane Katrina, with her baby being due. However, they headed for Tennessee ahead of the storm, getting as far as Birmingham, where baby Riley decided the day after Katrina it was time to make his arrival. Courtney said the hospital staff in Birmingham were terrific - they were generous, and took outstanding care of the family. Fortunately, Courtney's mother was also

there to help out. "We were so blessed in Birmingham," Courtney said. "In the midst of this huge disaster, Riley came along - that's a story we can share with him as he grows up."

Courtney has an artistic side, and studied dance, tap and ballet. She often handcrafts signs to present to friends and colleagues, for their new babies' rooms. "People really appreciate having handmade gifts for their babies," she said. In her "spare time" she loves to read.

Courtney said that she knows the mission statement. "I love OJJ," she said. "It's such a family. I can't imagine working anywhere else."

## Transitions

### Comings and goings...

### Welcome to new members of the OJJ Family:

#### BRIDGE CITY

Nathan Garrett - Security Officer  
 Ronald Jackson - Food Service Worker  
 Roxanne Matthews - Security Officer  
 Steve Mickle - Security Officer  
 Carlos Picot - Security Officer  
 Tanya Simmons - Youth Care Worker  
 Jacquelyn Tinglee - Security Officer

#### CENTRAL OFFICE

Ruby Dixon - Instructor  
 Carla Leyda - Program Manager 1

#### HAMMOND

Whitley Williams - Clerical Assistant

#### LAFAYETTE

Paige Sieber - Probation/Parole  
 Robert Stuckey - Probation/Parole

#### SWANSON

Melinda Highshaw - Correction Cadet  
 Gregory Gordon - Correction Cadet  
 Marla Cottingham - Correction Cadet  
 Delvin Chafford - Correction Cadet  
 Melvin Carr - Correction Cadet  
 Kimberly Roquemore - Correction Cadet  
 Terrance Sumler - Food Production Worker  
 Dianna Trochelman - Social Service Counselor  
 Pathina Anderson - Social Service Counselor

#### TALLULAH

Columbus Willis - Probation/Parole Officer 1

## PROMOTIONS

#### NATCHITOCHES

Simon Sarpy - Probation/Parole Supervisor

#### JETSON

Robert Young - Facility Maintenance Manager

## RETIREMENT

#### HAMMOND

Sharon Plamann

## OJJ takes care of our own... Agency-wide outpouring of support for JCY Teacher Janice Huggins

OJJ raised over \$1000 in cash and gift cards to assist JCY teacher Janice Huggins, whose home burned to the ground while she was in Missouri for in-depth training in the Missouri Model. Ms. Huggins received a call telling her that her home in Zachary had been destroyed. Thankfully, her 24-year old daughter, Takyra and their dog, escaped unhurt, but they lost everything to the fire.

Offered the opportunity to fly home from Missouri to attend to this disaster, Ms. Huggins chose to stay and continue learning. "Ms. Huggins is a real pro," said Director of Education Kim Mims. "She carried on with the training and never missed a beat."



Spanish Town Mardi Gras Parade! Smile, you're on camera!



Top: Deputy Secretary Dr. Mary Livers, left, and Director of Education Kim Mims, right, present Janice Huggins, center, with gifts from the entire agency. Below, Ms. Huggins expresses her thanks at a Leadership meeting.

## Baton Rouge Regional Office

Baton Rouge OJJ began the month of February preparing for our first audit in roughly two years. **Regional Manager Sue Larisey** wine and dined the auditors with muffins, coffee and drinks. It was a bit of a challenge but we made it through without any major scars or bruises and we actually scored higher than expected.

A special congratulations to **Administrative Coordinator Irma Gonzalez** for scoring 100% on the business portion of the audit. And as a side note, it was nice to see some of our old friends from Central Office that we don't get to see anymore.

## Congratulations!

Congratulations to **PPO Brandon Woods** on the birth of his first new baby boy, born February 20, and weighing in at 8lbs and 19 inches long! Wow!

Congratulations to our first graduates from our Effective Black Parenting Training Seminar!

We have recently had training programs in the following: CPR for the majority of the staff, SAVRY Training (**RM Sue Larisey, PPS Rickey Cannon, PPS Susan Miller, PPO Elois Nelson and PPO Stephanie Krygowski**) and ORM/Safety Training (**PPO Cobie Chauvin and Administrative Coordinator Irma Gonzalez**).

And finally, Kudos to **RM Sue Larisey**, who was caught in the spotlight by WFMF at the



## Bridge City Center for Youth Congratulations!



**Chef Ron Sonnier** teaches culinary arts to OJJ youth.

**Chef Ron Sonnier** was recognized as "Chef of the Year" for the second year in a row at the annual awards dinner hosted by the Baton Rouge chapter of the American Culinary Federation on Feb. 9.

Chef Sonnier's wife, **Mitzi Sonnier, JCY Investigative Services**, said, "Ron truly is blessed in his work. He is really enjoying teaching the youth the art of culinary. He can't wait to get his kitchen up and running at Bridge City."

Chef Sonnier is president of the Baton Rouge ACF chapter and has been a member of the chapter for 20 years. "I've been president in 12 of those 20 years. I believe

in our mission, mentoring people starting out in the profession, and providing skills training and support for members. Our chapter is active and very involved in culinary education and encouragement for people wanting to enter the (culinary) profession," Chef Sonnier said.

### Staying Safe at BCCY

BCCY is gearing up for Vocational Arts classes for its youth by emphasizing the importance of safety. A training program in February, covering the BCCY Youth Management Safety Plan, was conducted by **Elaine Strauss, Staff Development Trainer**, for **Chef Ron Sonnier, Culinary Arts teacher**; **Sherryll Stewart, Cosmetology teacher**; **Ed Green, CO/OJJ Title One Director**; and **Dorean Phoenix, Riverside HS interim principal**. **Bonnie St. Germain, BCCY Chemical Control Officer**, attended and shared protocol and procedures necessary for safe handling of chemicals. The training's purpose was to highlight the safety plan for the facility and break its components down by stressing pertinent responsibilities and reinforcing important points. Questions and comments about safety needs for vocational classes were discussed. The group worked in pairs to write and share a mock job safety analysis. After finishing a PowerPoint presentation, the group completed a check for understanding by working on a crossword puzzle consisting of the safety rules and terms discussed during the training. **Ms. Stewart** was the first to complete the puzzle and was awarded a prize.



**Staff Development Trainer Elaine Strauss, standing, provides safety training.**

### Black History Month Celebrated at Riverside Alternative School

Black History month was celebrated by the youth at BCCY's Riverside Alternative School. Under the leadership of **Principal Dorean Phoenix**, the faculty and staff incorporated black history in all areas of the curriculum. Students wrote essays, watched films, conducted research, and read books about the achievements of noted African Americans. There were also special events to celebrate the month.

### Black History Quiz Bowl

Students participated in the Black History Quiz Bowl. During January and February, several students researched and studied black history facts and prepared for the Quiz Bowl competition. The competition itself was first class. There was a moderator, timekeeper, and judge present to watch as students chimed in their answers on the "lock out" buzzer system used in the competition. Seven teams of four students each competed in the quarter final, semi- final and final round until one team emerged as the winner.

### Black History Program

Students also enjoyed a culturally diverse and rewarding Black History Program themed Inspiration: Past, Present, and Future. Student participants opened the program and gave speeches about noted African Americans. Their artwork was displayed, and the BCCY Chorale performed inspirational songs for the audience. Eloquent orator **Deacon Milton Hubbard**, of the St. Mark Fourth Baptist Church, gave a rousing rendition of Martin Luther King, Jr.'s "I Have A Dream" Speech. A special segment in the program was dedicated to the election of the first African American President of the United States, President Barack Obama. Our very own first couple actor and actress, **Greg Williams, Math Instructor**, and **Sherryll Stewart, Cosmetology Instructor**, re-enacted the first inaugural dance by the First Couple, President Barack Obama and First Lady Michelle Obama. Students also participated in an awards ceremony where they received certificates for their participation in the monthlong activities. **Chef Ron Sonnier** and the Culinary Arts students provided

homemade cookies and punch as refreshments at the program.

Students of all races, cultures and backgrounds participated wholeheartedly in all of the events. The events culminated with a reception for the Quiz Bowl members and program participants sponsored by the faculty and staff on February 27.

## JCY vs. BCCY Basketball Tournament

On February 14 BCCY traveled to Baker to play JCY in a basketball tournament. The game went very well. Both staff and youth worked very hard. Although BCCY was down by several points, the youth showed courage, strength, and remarkable teamwork by never giving up.

**JCY Director Daron Brown** and **BCCY Deputy Michael Gaines** spoke inspiring words to congratulate the youth for playing a commendable game. After the game, everyone circled up for a prayer and ate lunch. On the way back to BCCY, Deputy Director Michael Gaines treated youths to snacks from McDonald's for their outstanding performance.

BCCY's Basketball Travel Team included **Harold H., Ujima; Gerald M., Kuumba; James M., Bacchus; Joshua Q., Nia; Derrick S., Nia; Eugene S., Ujima; Christopher W., Imani; Aaron M., Rex and Christopher B., Bacchus.**

Staff team members were **Kieki Metoyer, Recreational Therapist 3; Andre Lewis, Education; Dwight Watson, Recreational Therapist 1; Marcema Monterroso, Counselor; Cassandra Washington, Administrative Program Director 2; Michael Gaines, Deputy Director; Rickey Wright, Assistant Director; Lance Daniels, Captain/Group Leader and Tracy Jasmine, Lieutenant.**

## Central Office

**Jacqueline Page, Probation and Parole Program Specialist**, was the guest speaker at JPMI's (Jefferson Parish Marine Institute) graduation in February, in Region 1. 13

youth graduated from the program. Ms. Page spoke to the youth about not giving up, letting go of the past and making it no matter what.



**Jacqueline Page addresses youth at the JPMI graduation.**

During the graduation, a parent, Ms. Denise Burras, cried as she thanked JPMI for all the help they had given her daughter, Brittany Green. She also spoke about the positive changes that she saw in her daughter. It is noteworthy to mention that Ms. Burras suffered a stroke and a heart attack while her daughter was at JPMI.



**Denise Burras and daughter Brittany Green at the JPMI graduation.**



**Taylor Mims**, daughter of **Kim Mims, Director Education**, was featured in this photo published in the Baton Rouge newspaper, *The Advocate*. Episcopal's Taylor Mims had the top regional-round game with 28 points.

## Congratulations

Latrice Bracken, JCY Human Resource Analyst C, has accepted a promotion at Central Office. Ms. Bracken has proven over and over again her efficiency, her ability to produce her work in a timely manner and that she is a team player. It is always a pleasure to work with such an employee.

## Hammond Regional Office

### Welcome

Hammond OJJ welcomed **Whitley Williams** to our staff. Whitley was hired as a WAE Clerical Assistant and we're happy to have her.

### Congratulations

#### Third Quarter Employee Awards of 2008

**Supervisor of the Quarter: Roy Wittorf**  
**Officer of the Quarter: Christy Ford**  
**Support of the Quarter: Karl Martin**

**Karl Martin** is actually an Education Specialist from Central Office who is assigned to work with the Hammond Regional Office as well as other OJJ Regional Offices. He was nominated by Hammond Regional Office staff for Support Employee of the Quarter for all the work he does in assisting PPOs with educational issues for our youth.

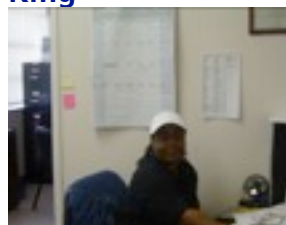
### Superstar Award

Hammond OJJ has a monthly award called the SUPERSTAR Award. Nomination cards are available for staff to recognize anyone in the office for something outstanding that they have done. Each month at the General Staff Meeting, a card is pulled at random and that person is our SUPERSTAR. This month, **PPO Leigh Calmes** is our SUPERSTAR recipient.

## Jetson Center for Youth

### JCY Announces Employees of the Year

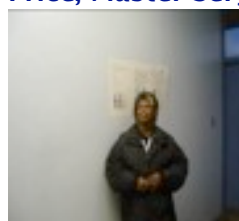
#### Supervisor of the Year - Major Joan King



Joan King

Major Joan King is very professional, knowledgeable and self-motivated. Once given a task she will not stop until it has been completed. Major King adapts well to change. She has recently been appointed as the Safety Officer for the facility. She has worked diligently to ensure that JCY is in compliance with the Office of Risk Management and other safety standards. She is a Safe Crisis Management Trainer, provides training in safety and security subjects and is a member of the Chase Team. Major King is an excellent supervisor and she is willing to work extra hours when needed.

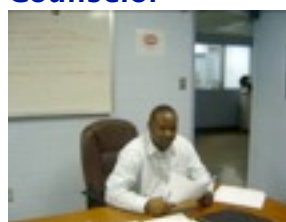
#### YouthCare Worker of the Year - Gail Price, Master Sergeant



Gail Price

Master Sergeant Gail Price is assigned to the Control Center. She was selected because of her exemplary work ethics. She serves as a backup to the Control Center Supervisor and substitutes as the Front Gate Officer when shift coverage is short. She is courteous when interfacing with the public and staff. She has a good attendance record; she is attentive and displays a sincere dedication to her work.

#### Treatment Employee of the Year - Ricardo Williams, Social Services Counselor



Ricardo Williams

Ricardo Williams transitioned well from a YouthCare Worker to a Social Service Counselor. Mr. Williams is in the Winter Treatment Unit where more aggressive youth are placed. He is self-motivated and willingly accepts challenges. Mr. Williams has mastered the task of remaining calm in hostile situations in the Winter Treatment Unit. He is instrumental in sending timely detailed report to judges and probation officers. He chairs seven day, quarterly and transfer staffing. Mr. Williams is a true professional and an employee who is respected by staff as well as youth.

### **Education Employee of the Year – Sheryl Lollis, Tutor**

Sheryl Lollis demonstrates a professional relationship with faculty, staff and students at all times. She is responsible for time sheets and collecting, compiling and maintaining student attendance information. Ms. Lollis assists in the placement of substitute teachers for teacher absences. Ms. Lollis is very conscientious and trustworthy.

### **Administrative Employee of the Year – Carondalette Stewart, Administrative Coordinator 3**

Carondalette Stewart is relatively new to the position of Administrative Coordinator. Previously, she served as a Para-educator for eight and one-half years. Ms. Stewart is self-motivated and is always willing to assist the teachers, co-workers and the youth. She is a tireless worker and never complains. She is eager to learn new and different ways of doing things.

### **Congratulations!**

**Director Daron Brown** congratulated the **Social Service Staff**, who achieved full compliance during the December 2008 Treatment Review. JCY received the top score, 91%, for the quarter. Director Brown said "I believe in the mission statement and 91%! Good job, well done! It takes a team and that's what we are here at Jetson, and within the Social Service Department. Keep up the good work. Keep striving to do better and better." Director Brown rewarded the Social Service Staff by treating them to a great dinner at the Lagniappe Steak House in Baker.

### **Welcome Back!**

JCY welcomed **Belinda Thompson** back to its family. Ms. Thompson is serving as the Social Services Program Coordinator. She is responsible for the development of JCY's policies and ensuring JCY's compliance with ACA and PbS standards. Ms. Thompson has a wealth of experience in juvenile justice. Ms. Thompson has already stepped in with a running leap. She is providing "fresh eyes" as regards to policies and practices at JCY and assisting in other areas.

### **Youth Attend Valentine's Banquet**

**By Denise Clause, JCY Training Director**

The stars were out on Valentine's night!!! Several youth were selected to attend the St. Pius 14th Annual Father-Daughter Valentine Banquet. The theme for the enchanted evening was "A Star Was Born." Ten of our JCY youth shone brightly!

Our evening began with youth, staff and family members meeting for a photo opportunity. It was difficult to tell which was brighter – the cameras flashing or the smiles on our youths' faces! Each youth had a female family member as their escort. Most selected their sisters. It was obvious that the girls had spent hours preparing for the special evening. Up-dos, curls and brightly painted fingernails were dazzling! The youth were so handsome in their tuxedos with shoes freshly polished, and were well groomed from top to bottom. The youth were escorted to our three waiting limos complete with volunteer drivers. Several security checks were done with Director Daron Brown carefully supervising. The limos were followed by several of our vans and Director Brown followed closely behind the caravan in his personal vehicle. At the activity center our youth quickly found their escorts and proudly walked arm-in-arm to their dinner tables. Staff and youth enjoyed a delicious dinner with Valentine punch and red and white cake. During our program all fathers there went to the front of the room and were serenaded with a special song and presented with a beautiful long stemmed red rose. Several of our youth are fathers and they too joined the group.

Our female escorts were presented with certificates and gifts, petite silver bracelets. As always, security was first and foremost with our staff, who alternated standing at the door. Everyone utilized "eyes on ears on" supervision.

As our youth boarded our vans to go home, many of their sisters were very sad and shed a tear or two. The staff did their best to comfort the escorts, as the reality sank in that they may not see their brothers for a while. One of the sisters told staff that it was the first time she had seen her brother in almost two years and that she had driven by herself over two hours to Baton Rouge to share this evening with her brother.

It is impossible to choose who we were most proud of, the staff or youth. The boys were so well behaved and exhibited excellent manners and poise throughout the evening. Our staff gave up a very special evening with their own loved ones to spend it with our youth. Not only did they volunteer, but each staff member paid for their own meal.



The staff who attended the Valentine Banquet are from left to right: YouthCare Worker Fouab Harb; Master Sergeant Shera Knighten; Captain Reginald Robinson; Staff Development Instructor Leona Bailey; Director Daron Brown; Deputy Director Frances Bailey; Training Director Denise Clause; Therapeutic Recreation Specialist Corey Kaufman; Major Joan King and Sergeant Jamal Ficklin.

Capt. Leon Franklin is not pictured.

The evening was dedicated to preserving the integrity of the OJJ vision by embracing our partnership with the community and families. Our youth were responsible and

law abiding citizens of our community last night. Everyone embraced the foundation of La Mod, which is about building healthy relationships and treating others with respect and dignity. The evening served to remind of our stakeholders that WE CAN turn lives around and give hope to the youth that our state has entrusted us with. JCY is a facility that our community can be proud to call its own.

## Another big hit for the Jetson Choir!

**Ms. Stephanie Gilmore, OJJ Probation Officer**, invited the Jetson Rising Stars Choir to travel to Evergreen Baptist Church in Ethel where they celebrated "Black History". Ten youth and seven staff members attended this event. The choir performed several selections and did an outstanding job as they motivated the crowd. One of our youth entertained the church with his rap tribute to Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., they were standing on their feet clapping and cheering him along. In his words he stated "Ms. Bailey, that made me feel so good about myself". The church members provided us with a delicious meal that consisted of fried fish, rice dressing, potato salad, cake and punch.

As always, JCY staff proved their dedication by providing a safe and secure environment for our youth as well as the community. The staff members included education, security and of course our **Director, Mr. Daron Brown**.

## JCY vs. BCCY Basketball Tournament

### The JCY side of the story

BCCY and JCY youth met Feb. 14 for a basketball tournament. All the youth were well behaved. We had good staff support. Jetson won, 48 to 31. After the game the youth and some staff circled up and the youth set the expectations, then we had a prayer. The kids had fun and learned about sportsmanship.

## Lafayette/Opelousas Regional Office

**Congratulations!**

**A birth in the family...**  
**Congratulations to a pair of PPO3s.**  
Chris and Andrea Potier welcomed their son Roman Christopher on February 28.

**A wedding in the family...**



**Amanda Elizabeth Matt and PPO3 Nicholas James Landry will exchange vows on March 7 at the New Hope Chapel at Acadian Village in Lafayette.**

## Lake Charles Regional Office

**PPO Fred Fontenot and PPO Ronald Gilchrist** engaged in a basketball competition with the Boys Village therapist, **Mr. Paul Bray**, and the Boys Village residents. **PPO Ronald Gilchrist** and his team had a strong showing and were undefeated. Mr. Bray's team and PPO Fontenot's team each lost one and won one.

## Anniversaries

**Karli Pullard and Melissa Cross** both celebrate nine years of employment with OJJ.

**PPO3/J Delisa Clark** attended Boys Village's Mardi Gras Fundraiser to show support for one of her juveniles. The juvenile gave a speech during the event and was extremely pleased that his PPO was present for his big moment!

**RM Ann Vick, PPS Melissa Cross, PPS Ken Vidrine, PPO Fred Fontenot, PPO Jeff Haley, PPO Monet Newman, and Program Specialist Lane Plauche**, attended the ribbon cutting and Open House for the new location of Southwest Louisiana Marine Institute's Day Treatment Program. The program is full and is maintaining a waiting list.

Lake Charles OJJ had a Weekend Social and Morale Booster for all present Lake Charles OJJ "family members" and several past OJJ employees that we still consider family. **PPO Todd Younger** boiled some delicious crawfish and former OJJ employee **PPO Anthony Holmes**, who now resides in Arkansas, also attended our social.

**PPO Fred Fontenot, PPO Rebecca Harmon, PPO Ronald Gilchrist, and PPO Garrick Chambers** are enthusiastic and are conducting after hours curfew checks.

**PPO Monet Newman, PPS Melissa Cross, and Social Worker Janice Manuel** serve on the Working Together for Families (WTF) committee, which is a monthly collaboration between OCS, OJJ, and the local parish juvenile probation. WTF has been asked to present for a break-out session at the FINS Conference in April 2009.

**PPS Melissa Cross** has completed at least 24 hours of Firearms Instructor Development by assisting with range instruction and initial firearms education for cadets attending the Calcasieu Parish Sheriff's Academy.

**RM Ann Vick** worked the Alcohol-Free Zone on Mardi Gras Day's parade route. The community had an overwhelming positive response to the alcohol-free area, initiated by the Calcasieu SPF-SIG committee.

**PPO Rebecca Harmon, PPO Hollie Comeaux, PPS Ken Vidrine, and Social Worker Janice Manuel** attended the Connections Count Conference in Lake Charles and gave positive feedback regarding informative break-out sessions.

**PPS Melissa Cross and PPO Ken Vidrine** attended Crisis Intervention training at OCS with many of our local residential providers.

**PPS Melissa Cross and PPS Ken Vidrine** were invited to our local POST Academy to give a presentation to the cadets about the Center for Sexual Offender Management (CSOM) Grant and sexual offender protocol utilized in the Lake Charles Region. The presentation was a huge success, and the information was well received. OJJ will now be given an annual opportunity to educate the front-line,

## Monroe Regional Office

**PPO Steven Pelfrey** has been elected president of his POST Academy class. PPO Pelfrey and **PPO Cheryl Pringle** are on track to graduate in April. ,

Monroe OJJ gave a baby shower for **PPO3 Orlando Davis**. On Feb. 23, Orlando and Sarah Davis welcomed their third child, Mason Neal Davis. He weighed 7 lbs. 7 ounces. Mother and baby boy are doing great.

**PPO T.J. Malveaux** completed the 40 hour PPCT Defensive Tactics Basic Course taught at the Natchitoches OJJ office.

## Natchitoches Regional Office

**PPS Simon Sarpy** attended the Annual Drug Court Conference held in New Orleans, in February. PPS Sarpy said the conference was a complete success. PPS Sarpy is very pleased with the success the Drug Court in the 10<sup>th</sup> Judicial Juvenile Court is having in the community.

**PPO/J Jeremy Martin** entered the P.O.S.T. training at the Alexandria Police Academy in February.

## Community Involvement

**PPO3/J Sederick Smith** is coaching the MLK Boys & Girls Club Little League Basketball Team. PPO3/J Smith has lead this team to the playoffs. Way to go!

**Program Specialist Monique LaCour's** children, Monét and James LaCour, participated in the Provine Studio Mardi Gras Parade February 24, in Alexandria. Monét LaCour has been chosen for a dance competition for Renee's Dance Studio in August. Best of Luck!

## Congratulations

**PPO3 Simon Sarpy, III** was promoted to Probation & Parole Supervisor.



Simon Sarpy

## Thank You

We would like to thank PPCT Instructors, **PPS Clay Dupuy (Alexandria OJJ)**, **PPS Kim Scott (Shreveport OJJ)** and **PPO2/J Stanley Cook (Natchitoches OJJ)** for their combined teamwork in conducting a PPCT Defensive Tactics Class held at our Natchitoches OJJ. We were pleased to have the following PPOs and WAE from their Office of Juvenile Justice offices:

**Heather Christophe, PPO Natchitoches**  
**Jessica Flores, WAE Shreveport**  
**Kelvin Jones, PPO Natchitoches**  
**Theryl Malveaux, PPO Monroe**  
**LaTonya Marshall, PPO Shreveport**  
**Fabrecia Roberson, PPO Shreveport**  
**Deanna Williams, PPO Natchitoches**

## New Orleans/Jefferson Regional Office

### Welcome Back

Join us in welcoming **PPS Ralph Jones** back to the office. Ralph was out for five months for a broken heel. Ralph has been a dedicated state employee for 28 years, 18 of which have been served with OJJ. Welcome back Ralph!

### Anniversaries

**PPO 2 Austin Johnson** has reached his one year anniversary with OJJ. Austin is an asset to the Orleans Region, and we hope to see many more anniversaries.

**Administrative Assistant 3 Bridgette Dillon** is celebrating her 22nd wedding anniversary along with her loving husband Darryl Dillon in Las Vegas, Nevada. Congratulations to the lovely couple!

In March the Orleans Regional Office is launching Effective Black Parenting Training. The first sessions will be geared toward youth with kids. Effective Black Parenting is

a dynamic and culturally relevant skill-building program for raising proud and confident African-American children". **PPO 3 Derryl Dunn** will be the lead trainer.

**PPO 3 Stanley Schofield** had the opportunity to speak at several high schools this month, East Ascension, Rabouin, Sophie B. Wright, and John McDonogh Senior High for Career Day.

**PPS Yezette White's** daughter Xzania White is attending Howard University. In Xzania's first semester she achieved a 3.7 GPA, and had the opportunity to attend the Presidential Inauguration along with 500 of her fellow Howard University students. Xzania stated "although it was cold, it was a remarkable experience."

## Shreveport Regional Office

### Congratulations

**Daniel Barnard, PPO1**, was chosen Employee of the Month for January.

**John Whitlock, PPO3**, is the Employee of the Month for February.

### Welcome

Shreveport OJJ would like to welcome its newest "junior" member. **PPO Jennifer Hill** gave birth to a healthy baby boy named Kendall Rayne on February 3.

Shreveport OJJ welcomes its newest members:

**PPO1/J Bennie Welch**

**PPO1/J LaNita Lars**

**WAE/Transport Louis Elie**

**Administrative Coordinator 3 Renada Young**

During February new employees, now veterans, initiated their first phase of training. **PPO Fabrecia Roberson, PPO Latonya Marshall** and **Transport Officer Jessica Flores** successfully completed 40 hours of PPCT training.

**Shreveport OJJ staff served as judges for the recent Caddo Middle Magnet School Social Studies Fair.**



## Swanson Center for Youth

### Congratulations

**Willie Newell, Therapeutic Recreation Specialist 2**, is the Treatment Employee of the Fourth Quarter (2008).

### Anniversaries

**Director of Treatment Janice James** celebrates 20 years with SCY.

**Suzanne Hammond** celebrates 10 years with SCY.

**Harold Harris** and **Leamon Windsor** both celebrate five years with SCY.

SCY will have a three day Epiphany Weekend on March 20-22,'09. This will be Epiphany #15. Thirty youth will be selected to attend this three day weekend event, to be held in the gym. Epiphany will cover topics such as why we are on this earth, prayer, forgiving others and forgiving self to recognizing mistakes, as well as experiencing the love of God through others. Our youth will also have lots of fun and activities to keep them busy for the three days. The 30-member Epiphany team consists of people from different backgrounds, churches, and cultures, who have all had background checks and orientation.

## SCY Youth speak at area high schools

**John Preston, LaMod Coordinator, Major Billy Varner** and **Deputy Director Lynne**

**LeBlanc** escorted Youth **Charles J. and Tahj W.** to Lee Junior High to speak. They spoke about their experiences at Swanson and how their lives have changed. The Lee Jr. High students asked lots of questions. After this program, we were asked to visit to three more schools, including Carroll Jr. High and MLK Middle School.

### Thanks for going the extra mile...

**Counselor Jerome Dickson** in Holly C. and **Chaplain Rev. Rickey James** went the extra mile recently for a youth whose father passed away. The youth is involved in counseling with his family. Mr. Dickson and Rev. James went with the youth the Regional Office where they all were involved in grief counseling.

### SCY Celebrates Black History Month

**Bradie James** of the Dallas Cowboys was the guest speaker and Grand Marshal at Southside Alternative High School's annual Black History Program on February 27. The program was followed by a Mardi Gras parade around the campus. James, who was a star at Wossman High School and West Monroe, and LSU All American, spoke about the value of determination and hard work as a means of achieving goals and success.



SCY principal **William Lee** with Dallas Cowboy **Bradie James**.

During the Black History Program, students and faculty members portrayed famous black Americans, giving a brief description of the accomplishments of the individual they portrayed. Following the assembly, students lined the sidewalks in front of their dormitories to view the parade, featuring the Richwood High School Drum Corps. Along the parade route Bradie James and several students rode on a float and tossed

candy and trinkets. Several youth were allowed to march in the parade with the band, and performed dance routines.

The school administration is grateful to **Director Jerry Ward** for his support with the parade, to the February planning committee for their hard work in putting the program together, and especially to **Bradie James** for taking time out from his busy off season schedule to participate in the program and parade.

### Libraries Change Lives Essay Contest

**Librarian Delores Wilson** held an essay contest for the youth. In support of President Barack Obama's message, "Change Can Happen," students at Southside Alternative High School were asked to write an essay describing the library's impact on their lives. The theme of the essay contest was, "Libraries Change Lives". **Youth Aaron B.** is the first place winner of the contest.

### Libraries Change Lives by Aaron B.

Libraries change lives dramatically, especially in the caged environment that we are in. It is really the only way we have to find out what is going on in the world around us. We can do this by reading the newspapers and magazines. If necessary, we can also use the encyclopedia to do research. Even in normal society outside of Swanson, we use libraries for many things. Let's not forget the people, our librarian, Ms. Wilson, who allowed me to come to the library when I had nowhere else to go. Also, the librarian's assistant, Mrs. Swan, kept me motivated for college and got a few important people's attention for me to get started. For some people, the library is their only Internet source, which can make the library a very important form of communication as well. Personally, the books in the library have been very useful. There are books that taught me how to apply for college, as well as study for important tests, such as the ACT and GED. It is a very peaceful place to study. Also, what about the entertainment of just

reading a good book? These are only a few ways libraries change our lives.

### **Libraries Change Lives**

**by Ka'Cedrix C.**

When I step into a library, I see a WHOLE NEW WORLD! You can read about adventure, drama, horror and comedy. I like the library because it gives me information about the past, present and future. The library tells me about excitement, how people lived back in the past. Also, I like to get on the computer and search for animals, history and places. It's also fun looking for people's everyday lives. I like to look on the computer for animal habitats and how they hunt for their food. I like the library because of all of its quietness and you can get more knowledge. I like to be on the computer to see the titles and authors of books that I read before I check them out. The library changes my life when I step into it because of all the books I see. I read to get my brain in the right place and that makes me get smarter. The library is a good place to look for newspapers and magazines, like Jet. It's a good place for all ages-- like the young, the middle age, and the older age. The library is a good place to get you ready for a new start.

### **Libraries Change Lives**

**by Matthew H.**

The Library is important to me. I learned how to read about the world, animals and all types of other things. I have learned how to even use a dictionary. The library's impact on my life is that I have read so many books that I can picture the place in my mind. Instead of going to that place, all I got to do is go to the library and find a book about the place I want to go, and I'll be able to imagine it in my head. The library has been just so wonderful and helpful to me. I don't think anyone could make it through school without a library. The library has an impact on everyone's life, especially mine. Sometimes I wonder about if there was no library what would happen. I wonder what the impact on my life would be like. I think I wouldn't be as smart as I am today if there was no library. I think it would be harder for me to learn more about things and places. For example, I wouldn't be able to learn how to read well. The library is very

cool. I just imagine what it would be like if I owned a library. I wonder if any other child has thought about having your own library. I would probably stay over some nights and stay up and read so many books. This is how I feel!

### **Tallulah Regional Office**

All of OJJ extends our heartfelt condolences to **Regional Manager Ruth Stephens** on the loss of her husband of 56 years, Sonny Stephens.

Welcome to our new employee, **PPO1 Columbus Willis**.

### **Thibodaux Regional Office**

#### **Congratulations**

**PPO 2 Rachel Loupe** was Employee of the Month for February.

# The Inside Scoop...of

**The Inside Scoop...of OJJ** is published monthly to communicate with and about OJJ staff in offices and facilities throughout the state, about agency activities, happenings and items of interest.

**The Inside Scoop...of OJJ** is produced by the Central Office with input from staff statewide.

## ...until next

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